

Application No.: 10/734056

Docket No.: IKW-004

REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 1, 2, and 9. Claims 7-8 and 10-22 are withdrawn. Claims 1-6, and 9 are pending, of which claims 1 and 9 are independent. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims define over the art of record.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner deems claims 3-6 to recite patentable subject matter.

Objection to the Specification

The abstract is objected to because of minor informalities. Applicants amend the abstract to address the Examiner's concern. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1-2 and 9 are objected to because of minor informalities. Applicants amend the claims to address the Examiner's concern. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the claims.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by International Patent Publication No. WO 01/78929 (hereafter '929). Applicants respectfully submit that the '929 reference does not disclose the limitation that a sub-base that is removably attached *to the base* and a parallel ruler that is removably attached *to the base* on the side on which the sub-base is attached or on the opposite side of the base, together with the sub-base, as required by independent claims 1 and 9.

The '929 reference discloses in Fig. 17 that shoe extensions 190a and 190b can be removably attached to base plate 28 via protrusion members 192a and 192b. The Examiner contemplates that protrusion members 192a and 192b are equivalents of a parallel ruler of the claimed invention. See page 4, item #5. Applicants respectfully disagree. Protrusion members 192a-b are not able to be used as a ruler because they are fastening means to attach shoe

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extensions 190a-b to the base plate 28. The '929 reference further discloses that only one of the shoe extensions 190a-b can be used to effectively extend the width of the base plate 28. See '929 reference at page 10 line 35-page 11 line 2. Hence, only one of the shoe extensions is intended to be used with the base plate 28 at any one time. In other words, the '929 reference only teaches that one sub-base can be removably attached to the base. However, claims 1 and 9 require that both a sub-base and a parallel ruler that can be removably attached to the base. Although the '929 reference discloses that a flange 196 that can be used as a rip guide can be included in one or both of the shoe extensions 190a and 190b, the '929 reference does not disclose that the flange 196 can be *removably attached to the base*.

Claims 1 and 9 further require that the parallel ruler that is removably attached to the base on the side on which the sub-base is attached or on the opposite side of the base, together with the sub-base. Hence, a user can choose in what configuration the sub-base and the parallel ruler would be attached to the base. Applicants respectfully submit that the '929 reference does not teach this limitation. The '929 reference merely discloses that only one sub-base can be removably attach to the base at any one time. The '929 reference does not disclose that both a sub-base and a parallel ruler can be both attached to the base, as required by claims 1 and 9.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the '929 reference does not disclose each and every element and limitation of independent claims 1 and 9. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 9.

Applicants note that dependent claim 2 also recite patentable subject matter. As such, for this and the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 also define over the art of record.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. IKW-004 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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